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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT SOPN KS US
SUBJ: REACTION TO PAK TONGSON'S NEWS CONFERENCE OF AUGUST 24
REF: FBIS SK240913Y AUG 77
SUMMARY: WITH PAK TONGSON'S LOCAL INTERVIEW STILL BIG NEWS TODAY, NDP HAS MOVED TO STAKE OUT OPPOSITION POSITION ROKG WILL NOT LIKE AND MAY FIND HARD TO HANDLE. END SUMMARY.
1. LOCAL PRESS AUGUST 24-25 CARRIED STORIES OF PAK TONGSON'S INTERROGATION AUGUST 24 BY SEOUL DISTRICT PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE AND HIS SUBSEQUENT NEWS CONFERENCE AS FRONT-PAGE SECOND ITEM. IN THESE ACCOUNTS (SEE EXAMPLE, REFTEL), PAK'S MOST SIGNIFICANT STATEMENT IN INTERVIEW WAS THAT HE HAD NEVER OFFERED BRIBES TO US CONGRESSMEN, HAD NEVER VIOLATED AMERICAN LAW, AND THAT HE SAW NO REASON WHY HE SHOULD BE QUESTIONED BY HOUSE ETHICS COMMITTEE COUNSEL JAWORSKY.
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2. ALL EVENING PAPERS AUGUST 25 CARRY ACCOUNTS OF NDP STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY CALLING ON ROKG TO "MAKE THE ENTIRE CASE PUBLIC AT HOME AND ABROAD SO AS TO "WIPE OUT (OUR) BAD REPUTATION" AND URGING PAK TONGSON TO "RESPOND FEARLESSLY TO THE US CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION." THE STATEMENT, RELEASED BY NDP SPOKESMAN KO CHAECH'ONG, ALSO CALLED ON ROK NATIONAL ASSEMBLY TO SUMMON PAK AND INVESTIGATE THE CASE, "TO RESTORE THE HONOR OF THE ROK IN INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY."
3. IN COMMENTING ON PAK'S NEWS CONFERENCE, ONE KOREAN REPORTER NOTED APPARENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAK'S ASSERTION THAT HE HAD "NEVER APPLIED FOR US PERMANENT RESIDENCE" AND STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTRY A FEW WEEKS AGO THAT PAK WAS A PERMANENT RESIDENT OF US.
4. COMMENT: SPLINTER OPPOSITION PARTY (DUP) HAS BEEN CALLING FOR SOME TIME FOR SIMILAR INVESTIGATION OF PAK CASE BY ROKG, NDP NOW SEEMS TO HAVE TAKEN INITIATIVE ON THIS ISSUE, WHICH HAS POTENTIAL OF AROUSING DOMESTIC INTEREST AND WHICH ROKG WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY FIND HARD TO HANDLE.

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